

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2008

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
House Appropriations Committee
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
House Appropriations Committee
2441 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

As your Subcommittee prepares to consider the Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations Bill for the Department of Education, we urge you to increase funding for the Reading is Fundamental Inexpensive Book Distribution Program from \$25 million to \$28 million. There are currently 1.5 million children waiting to receive RIF services and with this increase, RIF will be able to serve them and create new programs in communities with limited or no access to books and literacy resources.


Reading is Fundamental (RIF) is the nation's oldest and largest children's literacy organization. In partnerships with thousands of schools, public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and corporations across the country, RIF provides millions of underserved children with free books for personal ownership and reading encouragement from the more than 18,000 locations throughout all fifty states, Washington, D.C., Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Over the past four decades, RIF has freely distributed books to more than 300 million underserved child and been funded by Congress and six Administrations without interruption since 1975.

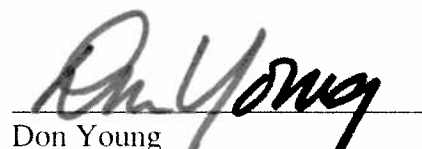
With the support of Congress, RIF provided more than 16 million books to 4.5 million of the nation's youngest and most at-risk children last year alone. Almost 89 percent of RIF's 2008 federal funds were used to purchase books, and RIF volunteers leveraged federal dollars to raise an additional \$8.5 million from local communities to support book ownership.

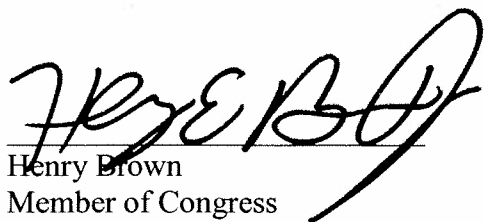
Increasing RIF's funding to this level would enable the organization to continue supporting the most underserved children in every state and territory in the United States and reach out to children currently on the waiting list. We ask your support for an appropriation of \$28 million for the RIF Inexpensive Book Distribution Program in FY2010.

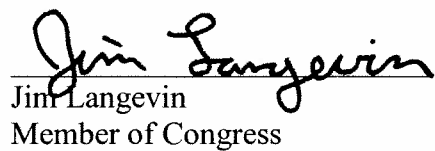
Thank you for your consideration of this request, and please let us know if you need any additional information.

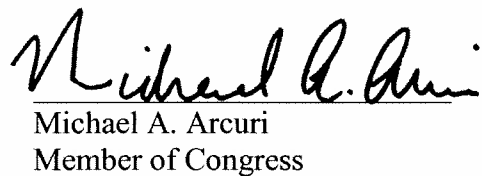
Sincerely,

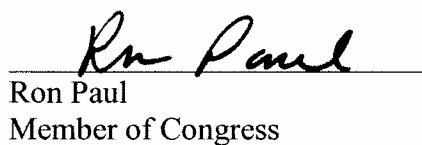

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress


Don Young
Member of Congress

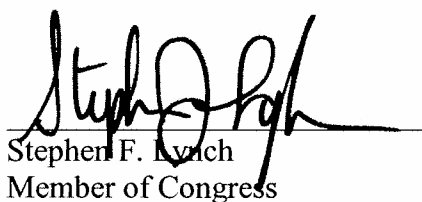

Henry Brown
Member of Congress

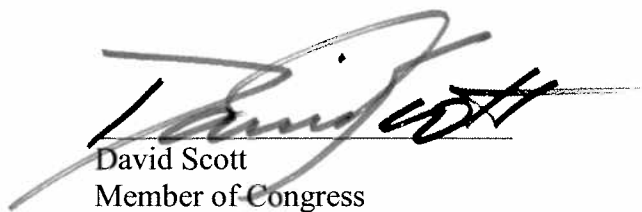

Jim Langevin
Member of Congress


Michael A. Arcuri
Member of Congress


Ron Paul
Member of Congress

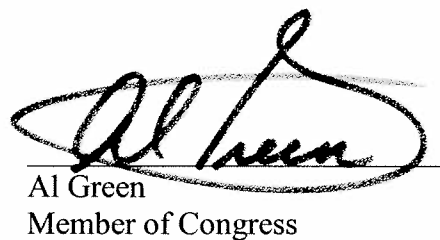

Jim Himes
Member of Congress

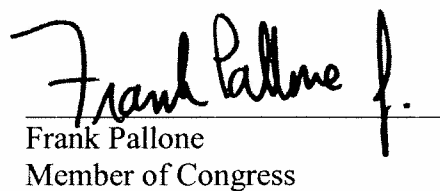

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

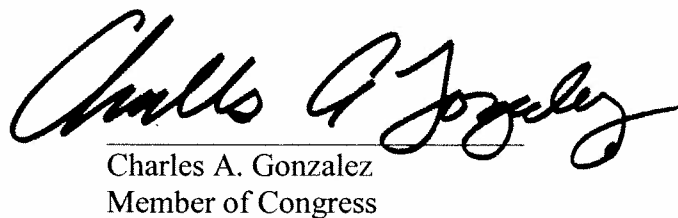

David Scott
Member of Congress

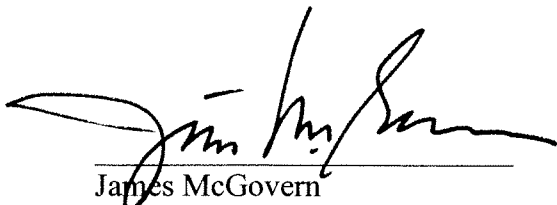

Charles A. Wilson
Member of Congress


Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress


Frank Pallone
Member of Congress



Charles A. Gonzalez
Member of Congress




James McGovern
Member of Congress



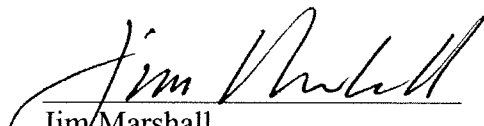
Michael Michaud
Member of Congress



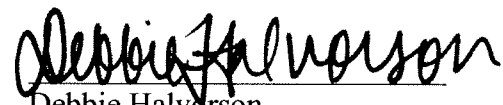
Betty Sutton
Member of Congress




Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress




Jim Marshall
Member of Congress



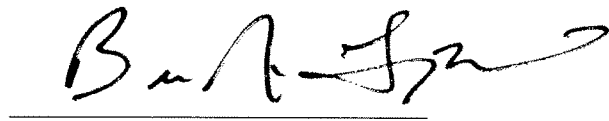
Debbie Halvorson
Member of Congress



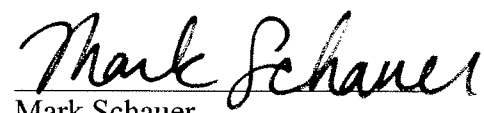
Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress



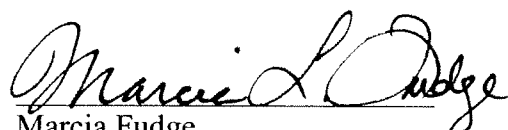
Christopher J. Lee
Member of Congress




Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress



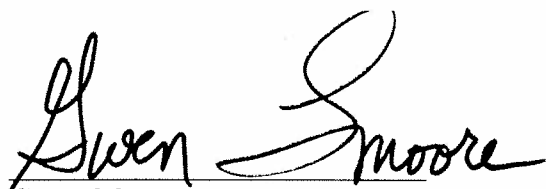
Mark Schauer
Member of Congress

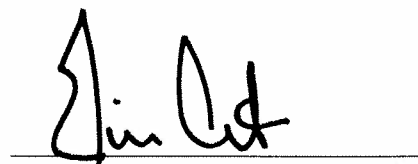


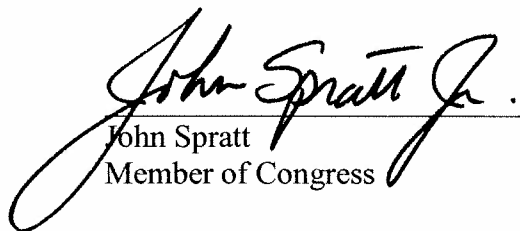
Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress

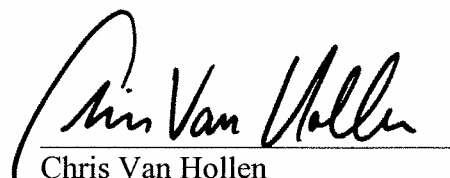


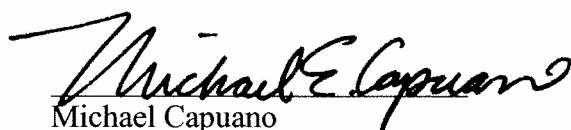
Tom Perriello
Member of Congress

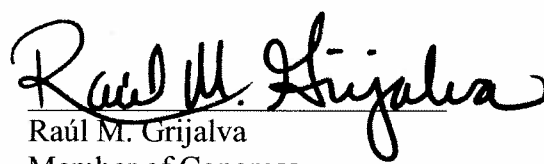

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

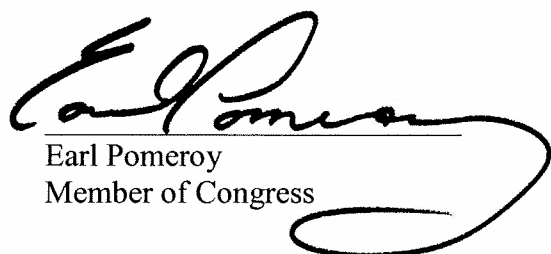

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

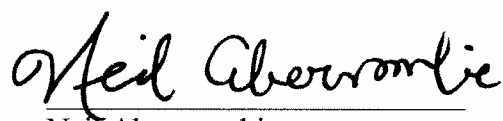

John Spratt
Member of Congress


Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

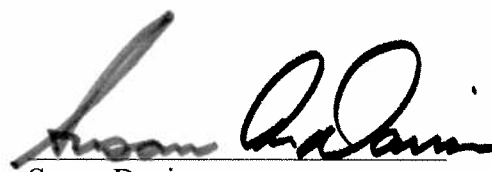

Michael Capuano
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

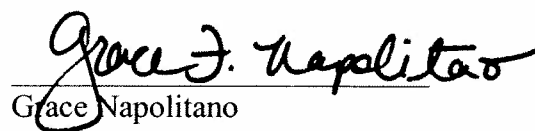

Earl Pomeroy
Member of Congress


Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress


Mazie Hirono
Member of Congress

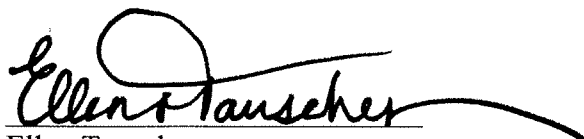

Susan Davis
Member of Congress


Bob Etheridge
Member of Congress

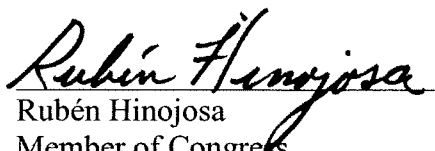

Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress



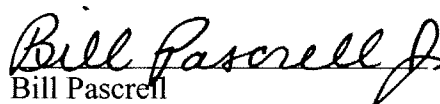
Todd Russell Platts
Member of Congress



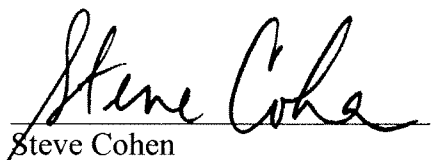
Ellen Tauscher
Member of Congress



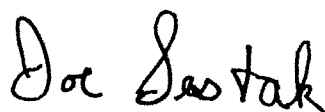
Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



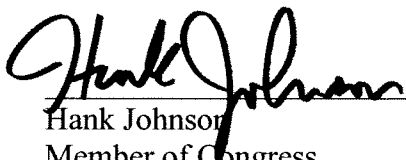
Joe Sestak
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



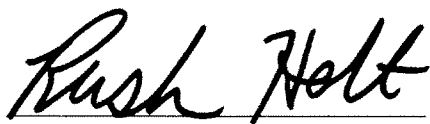
Brad Miller
Member of Congress



Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



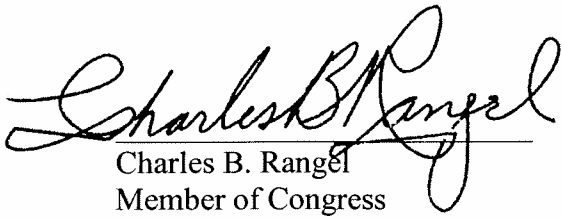
Bobby Scott
Member of Congress

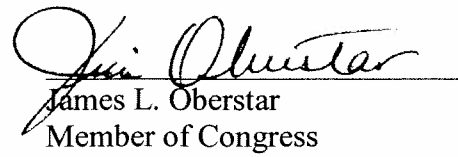


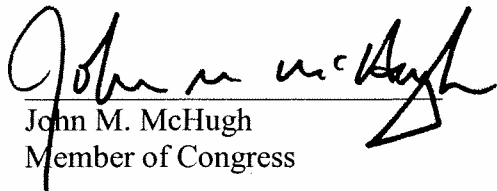
Rush Holt
Member of Congress

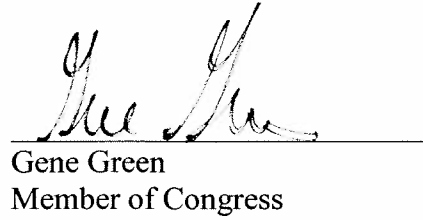


Pedro Pierluisi
Member of Congress

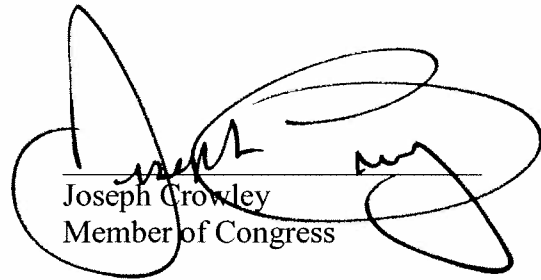

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

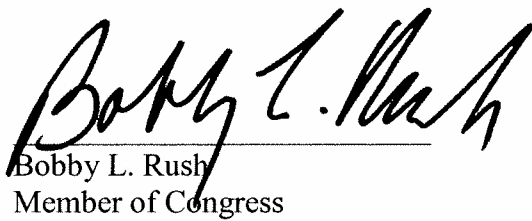

James L. Oberstar
Member of Congress

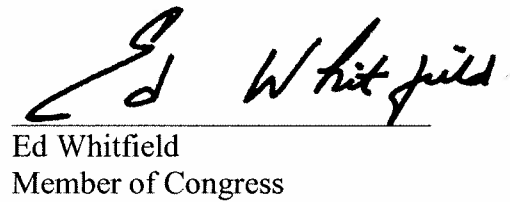

John M. McHugh
Member of Congress

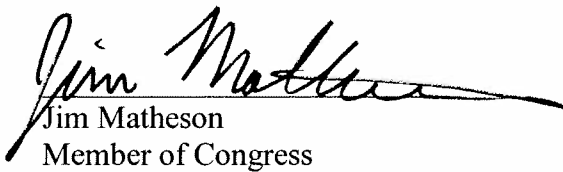

Gene Green
Member of Congress

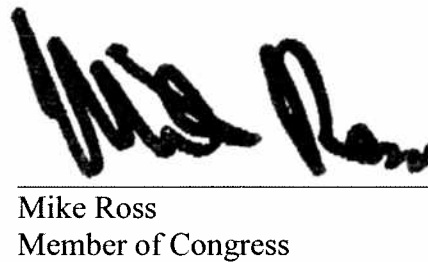

Chris Smith
Member of Congress

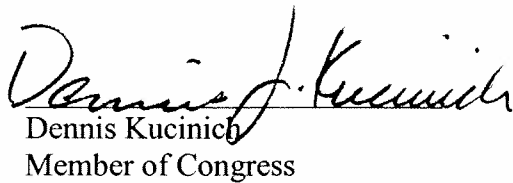

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

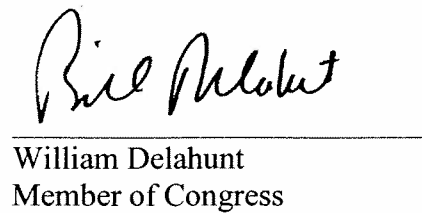

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

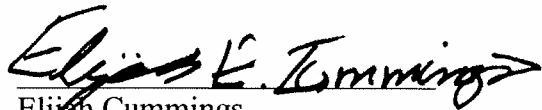

Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress


Jim Matheson
Member of Congress


Mike Ross
Member of Congress


Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress


William Delahunt
Member of Congress



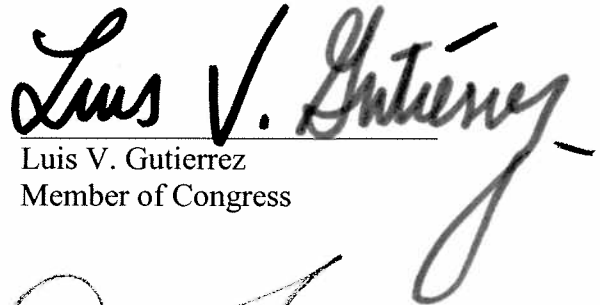
Elijah Cummings
Member of Congress



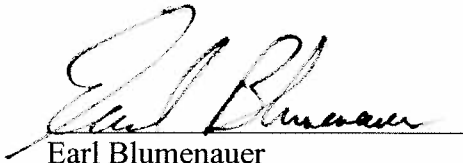
Robert Wexler
Member of Congress



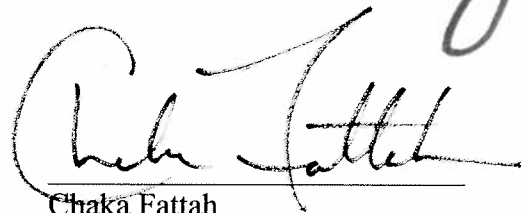
Lincoln Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress



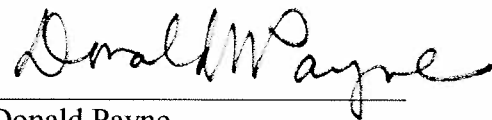
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



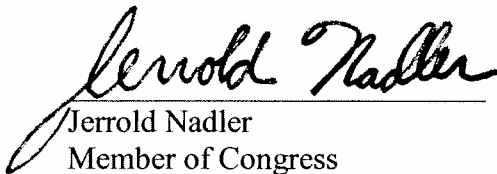
Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



Nick Rahall
Member of Congress



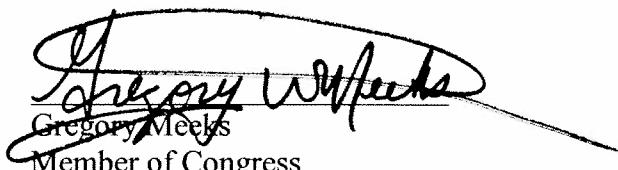
Donald Payne
Member of Congress



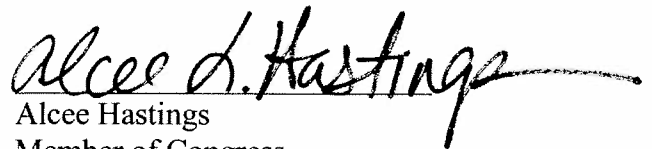
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



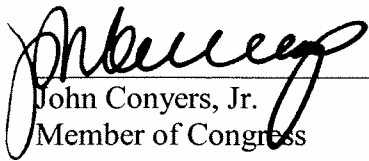
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



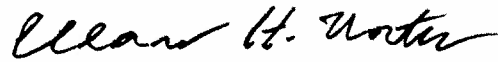
Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress



Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



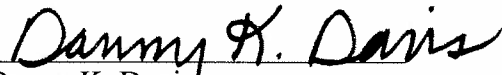
John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



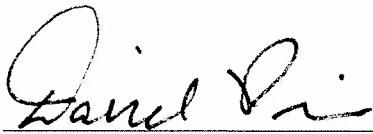
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



John Dingell
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



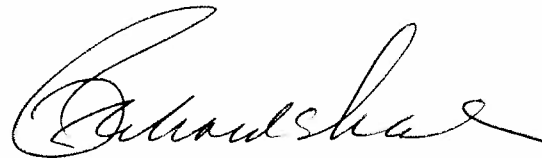
David Price
Member of Congress



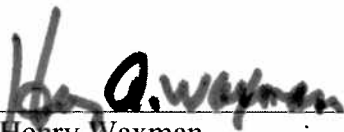
Solomon P. Ortiz
Member of Congress



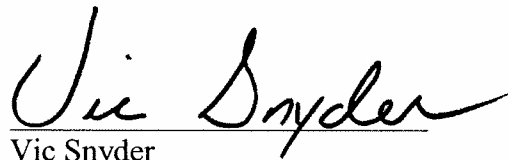
Ike Skelton
Member of Congress



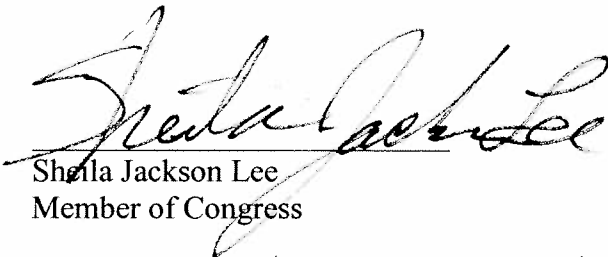
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



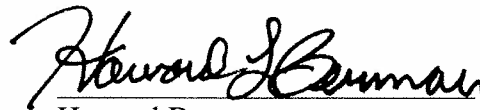
Henry Waxman
Member of Congress



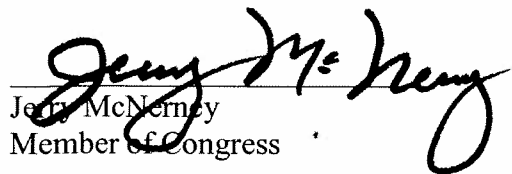
Vic Snyder
Member of Congress

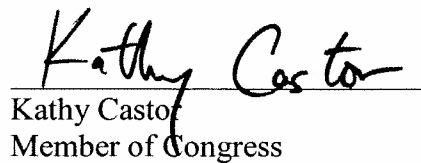


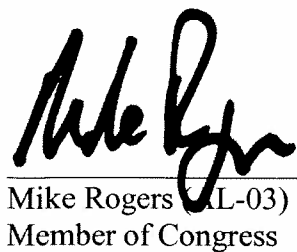
Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

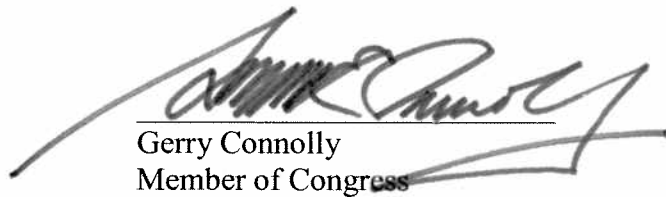


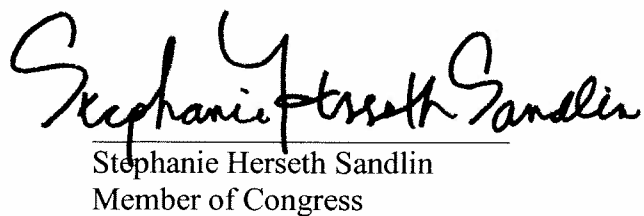
Howard Berman
Member of Congress

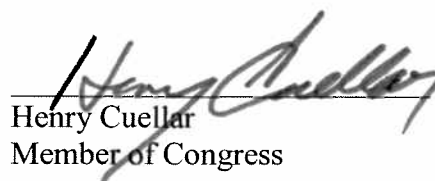

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress


Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

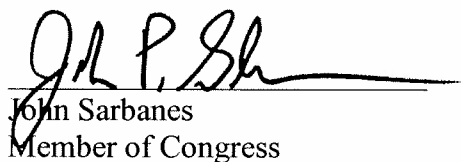

Mike Rogers (AL-03)
Member of Congress

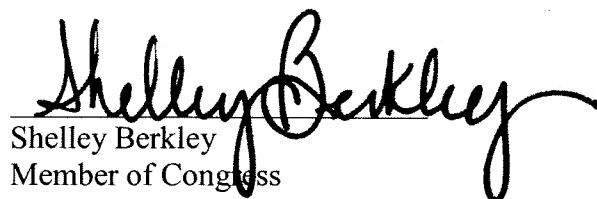

Gerry Connolly
Member of Congress

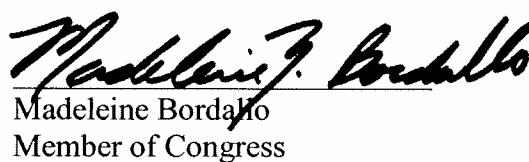

Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
Member of Congress

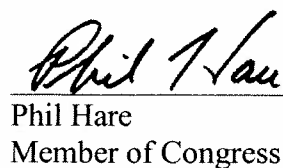

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

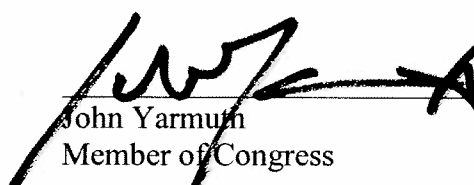

Christopher Carney
Member of Congress

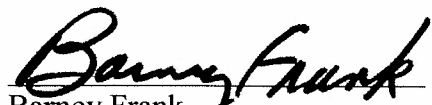

John Sarbanes
Member of Congress

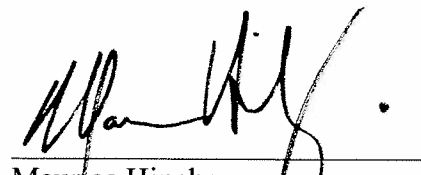

Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress



Madeleine Bordallo
Member of Congress



Phil Hare
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress


Barney Frank
Member of Congress

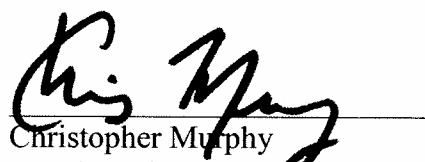

Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress

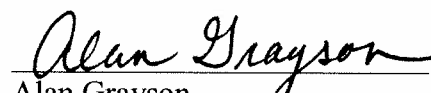

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Heath Shuler
Member of Congress


Artur Davis
Member of Congress


Keith Ellison
Member of Congress


Christopher Murphy
Member of Congress


Alan Grayson
Member of Congress


John Shimkus
Member of Congress